



Graduate Degree Recital

Heretic: Exploring the Delicate Science of “Othering”

Imani Oluoch, *mezzo-soprano*
Nomin Samdan, *piano*

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 1:00pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, Performance Space

Suspicion

O beata infantia
yes and I will yes

Hildegard von Bingen
(1098-1179)
Amy Beth Kirsten
(b. 1972)

Dream Variations
Hexenlied

Nozomi Sugimoto, *double bass*

Margaret Bonds
(1913-1972)
Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Trial

King of the World
Tituba Confesses
À la Santé
Strange Fruit

Jason Robert Brown
(b. 1970)
Sarah Ann Marze
(b. 2001)
Arthur Honegger
(1892-1955)
Abel Meerapool
(1903-1986)
arr. Nina Simone
(1933-2003)

– INTERMISSION –

Immolation

Winter Moon
I Know My Mind

Margaret Bonds

I burn, my brain consumes to ashes

John Eccles
(1668-1735)

Nozomi Sugimoto, *double bass*

Don't Go, Don't Go

John Harbison
(b. 1938)

If We Must Die

Robert Owens
(1925-2017)

Heaven

Todrick Hall
(b. 1985)

Puros

Epiphanie

Charles Koechlin
(1867-1950)

Sunrise

Lori Laitman
(b. 1955)

O Virtus Sapientiae

Hildegard von Bingen

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kenyan-Tanzanian American mezzo-soprano **Imani Oluoch** is a versatile artist, with eclectic origins. From Battle Creek, Michigan to Conakry, Guinea, and from Dallas, Texas to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Imani can call dozens of places home. She is a 2014 alumni of University of Denver's Lamont School of Music Youth Summer Program, and a 2016 alumni of Boston University's Tanglewood Institute.

Imani holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she studied under Dr. LaToya Lain. While at UNC-Chapel Hill, she performed as The Knowledge of God in Hildegard von Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum*, Fortuna from Claudio Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Grandmother and Father in Meredith Monk's *Atlas*, and Mother in Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. She was also wardrobe and assistant costume designer for *Ordo Virtutum* and *Hansel and Gretel*.

While at Bard Conservatory of Music, Imani has performed as a soloist in The Kurtag Festival and Broadway Revue. She also has performed scenes from Strauss II's, *Der Zigeunerbaron* and von Weber's *Euryanthe*. In 2026, she performed as Amelia's Friend in Menotti's *Amelia Goes to The Ball* and Pinenello in Puccini's *Gianni Schicci*. Outside of music, Imani is also very passionate about digital art, tailoring, leatherwork, creative writing, costume design, and costume construction. This passion led her to join the stitching team in Bard Summerscape's 2025 production of Smetana's *Dalibor* and to become a principal dresser for Bard Music Festival's chamber opera, *Julietta*, by Martinu.

At the moment, Imani is engaged in independent custom costume and leatherwork commissions work for the general public. She was also a recent finalist of Opera Ebony's 2025 Benjamin Matthews Vocal Competition. This upcoming summer, she will be performing in the choruses of *Der fliegende Holländer* and *Parsifal* Act II with TUNDI Productions in Vermont. Imani is currently a second year student of the Graduate Vocal Arts Program at the Bard College Conservatory of Music where she studies under Michaela Martens.

Born into a family of musicians, pianist **Nomin Samdan** made her first public appearance at the age of 7 in her native country, Mongolia. Since then, she has had an expansive career as a soloist, collaborator, and educator; performing across the continents of Europe, Asia, and North America. Recent professional appointments include a position on the Piano Faculty of the Mongolian State Conservatory, as well as pianist for the Mongolian State Opera and Ballet House. A long-time admirer of contemporary music, Ms. Samdan has premiered vocal works by Juliana Hall, Michael Finnissy, Dennis B athory-Kitz, and Albin Fries. Ms. Samdan received her B.Mus and Graduate Performance Diploma in Piano Performance from Boston Conservatory at Berklee under the guidance of YaFei Chuang; additionally, Ms. Samdan holds a M.M. in Collaborative Piano from Boston University.

Nomin is currently a Collaborative Piano Fellow at the Bard Conservatory, working under the mentorship of Erika Switzer and Kayo Iwama.